

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A non-therapeutic method of evaluating the level of skin neurosensitivity of an individual, the method comprising: 1) applying to a skin area of the individual

5 a composition comprising a physiologically acceptable vehicle and a peripheral nervous system stimulant, the concentration of the stimulant being between $1 \times 10^{-6}\%$ and $5 \times 10^{-4}\%$ by weight relative to the total weight of the composition; and 2) recording whether the individual detects or perceives an unattractive sensation and deducing therefrom information regarding the skin neurosensitivity

10 of the individual.

2. Method according to Claim 1, wherein step 2 further comprises deducing information regarding the skin reactivity or sensitivity of the individual.

15 3. A non-therapeutic method of evaluating the level of skin neurosensitivity of an individual the method comprising: 1) applying to a skin area of the individual a first composition comprising a physiologically acceptable vehicle and a peripheral nervous system stimulant, the concentration of the stimulant being between $1 \times 10^{-6}\%$ and $1 \times 10^{-4}\%$ by weight relative to the total weight of the composition;

20 2) recording whether the individual detects an unattractive sensation; 3) if no sensation is detected by the individual, repeating steps 1) and 2) with a composition containing a higher concentration of the same stimulant until the individual detects an unattractive sensation or until a composition containing a maximum concentration value of the stimulant is applied; and 4) deducing, from 25 the last concentration applied, information regarding the skin neurosensitivity of the individual.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein in step 3) the concentration of stimulant in the composition is such that the application of the composition is unlikely to give rise to painful unattractive sensations in the individual.

5 5. The method of Claim 3, wherein in step 3) the concentration of stimulant increases by a factor of between 1.5 and 10.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the concentration of stimulant increases by a factor of between 2 and 5.

10 7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the concentration increases by a factor of the square root of 10.

8. The method of Claim 3, wherein the concentration of stimulant in the first

15 composition applied in step 1) is between $3 \times 10^{-6}\%$ and $6 \times 10^{-5}\%$.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the concentration of stimulant in the first composition applied in step 1) is $3.16 \times 10^{-5}\%$.

20 10. The method of Claim 3, wherein the physiologically acceptable vehicle is selected from the group consisting of an aqueous solution, an aqueous-alcoholic solution, an oily solution, a lotion dispersion, a serum dispersion, an anhydrous gel, a lipophilic gel, an emulsion of liquid or semi-liquid consistency of the milk type, obtained by dispersing a fatty phase in an aqueous phase (O/W) or inversely (W/O); a suspension or emulsion of soft, semi-solid or solid consistency, a microemulsion, microcapsules, microparticles; and a vesicular dispersion of ionic and/or nonionic type.

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11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the physiologically acceptable vehicle is a solution.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the solution is an aqueous-alcoholic 5 solution with an alcohol content of less than 50%.

13. The method of Claim 3, wherein the peripheral nervous system stimulant is an agent which induces a sensorial response linked to the deployment of sensitive skin nerves.

10 14. The method of Claim 3, wherein the peripheral nervous system stimulant is a substance that can induce an unattractive sensation when applied topically to the skin and can induce release of at least one of substance P and CGRP when applied topically to the skin.

15 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the peripheral nervous system stimulant is a natural capsaicinoid, a synthetic capsaicinoid, a lactic acid, a glycolic acid, an ethanol at a concentration greater than 50%, or a mustard oil.

20 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the natural or the synthetic capsaicinoid is selected from the group consisting of a capsaicin, a homocapsaicin, a homodihydrocapsaicin, and a nordihydrocapsaicin.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the capsaicinoid is a capsaicin.

25 18. The method of Claim 3, wherein the skin area is the bend of the arm, the lobe of the ear, the posterior face of the pinna of the ear, the face, the wing of the nose, the nasogenial sulcus or the point of the lower maxillary.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the skin area is the wing of the nose.

20. The method of Claim 3, wherein when the peripheral nervous system stimulant is capsaicin, the physiologically acceptable vehicle is an aqueous-alcoholic solution.

5 21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the aqueous-alcoholic solution is an aqueous-ethanolic solution.

10 22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the aqueous-ethanolic solution contains from 1% to 50% of ethanol in water.

23. The method of Claim 22, wherein the aqueous-ethanolic solution contains from 5% to 20% ethanol in water.

15 24. The method of Claim 22, wherein the aqueous-ethanolic solution contains from 8% to 15% ethanol in water.

20 25. The method of Claim 22, wherein the aqueous-ethanolic solution contains 10% of ethanol in water.

26. The method of Claim 3, wherein the unattractive sensation is a painless sensation perceived within an area treated by the stimulant which produces at least one of stinging, pins and needles, itching, pruritus, hotness, pulling, a sensation of blocking, a sensation of vibrations and any other inconvenience or discomfort.

25 27. The method of Claim 3, wherein step 1) is preceded by prior application to a skin area of a composition comprising the vehicle without stimulant.

28. A non-therapeutic method of evaluating the level of skin neurosensitivity of an individual claim, the method comprising: a) applying a composition comprising a physiologically acceptable vehicle to a skin area of a subject; b) recording whether the subject perceived an unattractive sensation on the skin area having received the vehicle; c) if so, stopping the test; if not, applying to a skin area, optionally to the same area having received the vehicle previously, the same vehicle containing a peripheral nervous system stimulant at a concentration of between $1 \times 10^{-6}\%$ and $1 \times 10^{-4}\%$; d) recording whether the subject perceived an unattractive sensation on the skin area having received the composition containing the stimulant; e) if so, recording the concentration of stimulant and stopping the test; if not, increasing the concentration of stimulant by a factor of between 1.5 and 10, and repeating steps c) to e) n times, where n is between 1 and 10.

15 29. The method of Claim 28, further comprising waiting for 30 to 360 seconds at least one of after step a) and before step b) and after step c) and before step d).

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein the waiting is for 120 to 200 seconds.

20 31. The method of Claim 29, wherein the waiting is for 180 seconds.

32. The method of Claim 28, wherein step a) is preceded by prior application to a skin area and to its area on the opposite side of a composition comprising the vehicle without stimulant.

25 33. A non-therapeutic method of evaluating the level of skin neurosensitivity of an individual, the method comprising a) applying a composition comprising a physiologically acceptable vehicle to a skin area and to its area on the opposite side; b) recording whether the subject perceived an unattractive sensation on at

least one of the areas having received the vehicle; c) if so, stopping the test; if not, applying to a skin area, the same vehicle containing a peripheral nervous system stimulant at concentration of between $1 \times 10^{-6}\%$ and $1 \times 10^{-4}\%$; and applying the same vehicle to the area on the opposite side; d) recording whether the subject

5 perceived a discriminating unattractive sensation on the skin area having received the vehicle containing the stimulant in relation to the skin area on the opposite side; and e) if so, recording the concentration of stimulant and stopping the test; if not, increasing the concentration of stimulant by a factor of between 1.5 and 10, and repeating steps c) to e) n times, where n is between 1 and 10.

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34. The method of Claim 33, further comprising waiting for 30 to 360 seconds at least one of after step a) and before step b) and after step c) and before step d).

35. The method of Claim 34, wherein the waiting is for 120 to 200 seconds.

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36. The method of Claim 34, wherein the waiting is for 180 seconds.

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37. A non-therapeutic method of identifying persons having sensitive skin, the method comprising: 1) applying to a skin area of an individual an aqueous or aqueous-alcoholic solution, comprising a stimulant that is a capsaicinoid or a mustard oil at a concentration of between $1 \times 10^{-6}\%$ and $5 \times 10^{-4}\%$; and 2) deducing information regarding the skin reactivity or sensitivity of the individual as a function of the intensity of unattractive sensations perceived by the individual.

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38. The method of Claim 37, wherein the solution is an aqueous-ethanolic solution.

39. The method of Claim 37, wherein step 1) is preceded by a step 0) which comprises: applying to a skin area of an individual a solution of lactic acid at a

concentration of between 2% and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

40. The method of Claim 39, wherein the solution of lactic acid has a
5 concentration of 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

41. The method of Claim 37, wherein the concentration of stimulant is between
 $5 \times 10^{-5}\%$ and $5 \times 10^{-4}\%$ by weight relative to the total weight of the
composition.

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42. The method of Claim 41, wherein the concentration of the stimulant is $1 \times 10^{-4}\%$ by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

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43. The method of Claim 37, wherein step a) comprises between 1 and 3
applications of the solution.

44. The method of Claim 43, wherein step a) comprises 3 applications of the
solution.

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45. The method of Claim 39, wherein step 0) comprises between 1 and 10
applications of lactic acid solution.

46. The method of Claim 45, wherein step 0) comprises 10 applications of
lactic acid solution.

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47. The method of Claims 37, wherein the skin area is the bend of the arm, the
lobe of the ear, the posterior face of the pinna of the ear, the face, the wing of the
nose, the nasogenial sulcus or the point of the lower maxillary.

48. The method of Claim 38, wherein the aqueous-ethanolic solution comprises from 1% to 50% of ethanol in water.

49. The method of Claim 48, wherein the aqueous-ethanolic solution comprises
5 from 5% to 20% ethanol in water.

50. The method of Claim 48, wherein the aqueous-ethanolic solution comprises from 8% to 15% ethanol in water.

10 51. The method of Claim 48, wherein the aqueous-ethanolic solution comprises 10% ethanol in water.

52. The method of Claim 37, wherein the capsaicinoid is a natural capsaicinoid, a synthetic capsaicinoid, a synthetic extract or a plant extract.

15 53. The method of Claim 37, wherein the capsaicinoid is a capsaicin, a homocapsaicin, a homodihydrocapsaicin, a nordihydrocapsaicin, or a dihydrocapsaicin.

20 54. The method of Claim 53, wherein the capsaicinoid is a capsaicin.

55. The method of Claim 37, wherein the unattractive sensations are selected from the group consisting of stinging, pins and needles, itching, pruritus, hotness, pulling and discomfort.

25 56. The method of Claim 1, further comprising cosmetically treating the skin with a cosmetic product as a function of the skin neurosensitivity evaluated.

57. The method of Claim 3, further comprising cosmetically treating the skin with a cosmetic product as a function of the skin neurosensitivity evaluated.

58. The method of Claim 28, further comprising cosmetically treating the skin with a cosmetic product as a function of the skin neurosensitivity evaluated.

59. The method of Claim 33, further comprising cosmetically treating the skin with a cosmetic product as a function of the skin neurosensitivity evaluated.

10 60. The method of Claim 1, further comprising cosmetically treating the skin with a cosmetic product as a function of the skin neurosensitivity evaluated; repeating steps 1) and 2); and deducing, from a comparison of the results before and after treatment, an indication relative to the effectiveness of the cosmetic treatment.

15 61. The method of Claim 3, further comprising cosmetically treating the skin with a cosmetic product as a function of the skin neurosensitivity evaluated; repeating steps 1), 2), 3) and 4); and deducing from a comparison of the results before and after treatment, an indication relative to the effectiveness of the cosmetic treatment.

20 62. The method of Claim 28, further comprising cosmetically treating the skin with a cosmetic product as a function of the skin neurosensitivity evaluated; repeating steps a), b), c), d) and e); and deducing from a comparison of the results before and after treatment, an indication relative to the effectiveness of the cosmetic treatment.

25 63. The method of Claim 33, further comprising cosmetically treating the skin with a cosmetic product as a function of the skin neurosensitivity evaluated;

repeating steps a), b), c), d) and e); and deducing from a comparison of the results before and after treatment, an indication relative to the effectiveness of the cosmetic treatment.

5 64 A kit comprising: a plurality of containers each holding increasing concentrations of a peripheral nervous system stimulant in combination with a physiologically acceptable vehicle; at least one container which holds the vehicle alone; and a single applicator system, wherein the at least one container holds a concentration of the peripheral nervous system stimulant of between $1 \times 10^{-6}\%$ and $1 \times 10^{-4}\%$ by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

10 65. The kit according to Claim 64, wherein the single applicator system is a cotton bud.

15 66. The kit according to Claim 64, wherein the concentration of the peripheral nervous system stimulant is between $3 \times 10^{-6}\%$ and $6 \times 10^{-5}\%$ by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

20 67. The kit according to Claim 64, wherein the concentration of the peripheral nervous system stimulant is $3.16 \times 10^{-5}\%$ by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.